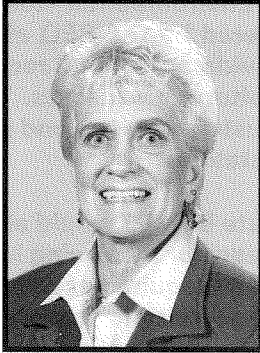


# Hammerstrom's

for the people  
in the 17th Senate District

# Hotline



State Senator

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**PUBLICATION AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH MEMORIAL WEEKEND, OTHER SUMMER TRAVEL PLANS** There are plenty of opportunities for Michigan's residents and families to explore and discover the state's attractions this Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer. The 2005 *Michigan Travel Ideas* magazine is a free publication which highlights interesting and fun things to do in the state. The guide includes information about the state's many beautiful beaches, golf courses, and other appealing destinations. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the travel guide can contact my office, toll-free, at 1-888-477-8238. Also, those who have access to the Internet can request a guide by visiting the state's website at [www.michigan.gov/som](http://www.michigan.gov/som), and clicking on the "Travel and Recreation" icon.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Great Lakes Circle Tour is a designated, scenic international road system connecting all of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. The Circle Tour boasts over 6,500 miles of roadways or highways close to the water. It is marked by distinctive green and white signs.

**SENATE CONSIDERS BILLS TO EXPAND PROTECTIONS AND RIGHTS FOR NURSING MOTHERS** The Senate considered a bill which would allow nursing mothers to be exempt from jury duty with a doctor's note as a way to prevent nursing moms from being separated from their babies for long periods of time. Michigan would join other states that have made this family-friendly change if Senate Bill 519 is signed into law. Supporters of the bill feel that requiring nursing mothers to be away from their infants for extended periods of time, as jury duty does, unfairly burdens the mother and child. A note from a physician or certified nurse midwife is required for such an exemption. Another measure was considered to expand Michigan's civil rights laws. Senate Bill 520 protects nursing mothers from discrimination in the workplace. Both bills have been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE** The Michigan Senate recently passed legislation that would create an agriculture and rural community roundtable in the Department of Environmental Quality. Senate Bill 226 creates a roundtable to evaluate how laws, rules, and policies administered by the DEQ affect farmers, food processors, agribusinesses, and rural communities. The roundtable will provide advice and recommendations to the department and legislative committees on policies that affect agricultural businesses. This advice should help limit regulations that restrict job creation and retention within the industry, with the end goal being to improve the rural economy. SB 226 is being considered in the House of Representatives.

**BILL GIVES LANDOWNERS ANOTHER OPTION TO KEEP TRESPASSERS AWAY** Senate Bill 499 would allow a landowner to designate their property "no trespassing" either by posting conventional signs or by placing identifying purple paint marks on trees or posts around the perimeter of their property. SB 499 requires each paint mark to be a vertical line at least eight inches long and be placed so that they are readily visible to persons approaching the property. The color purple was chosen because it does not conflict with other paint colors already used by the timber industry. SB 499 was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

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If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,  
please contact me at [SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov)